



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

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## National Park Service News Release

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### Effective Date On Personal Watercraft Closure Extended At Eight National Recreation Areas

(Washington) -- The National Park Service and Bluewater Network have executed an agreement which they have filed today with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to extend the date when personal watercraft use (PWC) would be banned from eight units of the national park system. The agreement is not effective until the court enters an order incorporating it.

Counsel for the plaintiffs in the original lawsuit, Bluewater Network, The Wilderness Society and other organizations, approached the NPS with an offer to negotiate an extension. Bluewater expressed a desire to help alleviate some of the pressure being felt by the NPS from user groups and local businesses surrounding the park units due to close September 15.

The eight National Recreation Areas (NRA) affected are Amistad NRA (TX), Bighorn Canyon NRA (MT/WY), Chickasaw NRA (OK), Curecanti NRA (CO), Glen Canyon NRA (UT/AZ), Lake Mead NRA (NV/AZ), Lake Meredith NRA (TX), and Lake Roosevelt NRA (WA).

The agreement between NPS and Bluewater Network allows PWC use to continue through November 6, 2002. This extension will allow usage of PWC's through the end of the recreational boating season. Before this extension, the eight areas were scheduled to close to PWC use on September 15, 2002 based on the previous court-approved settlement agreement between the NPS and Bluewater Network. At Lake Mead NRA, PWC use will continue until November 6 like the other seven, and from November 7, 2002 to January 1, 2003, will be subject to interim measures in specified areas. Lake Mead will issue a press release at a later date with information specific to the interim measures.

Beginning on November 7, 2002 at the seven areas and beginning on January 2, 2003, at Lake Mead, PWC use will no longer be allowed unless and until a special regulation providing for some continued use is finalized and published.

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All eight parks will continue to work on such rulemakings and, throughout the end of 2002 and during 2003, will be publishing environmental assessments and proposed rules for public comment. Every effort will be made by the NPS to expedite the rulemaking process.

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